

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

Comment [CMH1]: Need to reformat to provide space for letterhead.

TO: David Hankerson
County Manager

FROM: John Reida
Director

DATE: February 24, 2009

PURPOSE

To amend the County's Green Building Policy concerning the construction and renovation of County buildings to pursue ENERGY STAR® certification.

BACKGROUND

In January, 2008, Cobb County demonstrated its commitment to sustainable facilities by adopting a Green Building Policy addressing building renovations and new building construction exceeding 5,000 sq. ft. The Policy directed that such projects meet sustainable design utilizing environmental standards established by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Green Building Rating System and Certification. Projects are to achieve LEED™ certification or, where not financially justifiable, follow LEED™ standards and guidelines.

A major benefit of both LEED™ and the Cobb County's sustainability effort is improved energy efficiency and reduction of future utility costs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a path for certifying buildings as energy efficient under its ENERGY STAR group of energy conservation programs. This certification independently certifies buildings as being designed to operate in the top 25% of buildings in energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR certification would be pursued on new construction to certify buildings as energy efficient that do not meet the much broader LEED™ sustainability requirements. Where a building does receive a LEED™ certification, ENERGY STAR certification would not be required. Costs to apply for ENERGY STAR certification are minimal compared to costs for LEED™ certification.

It is proposed that the following be added to the "The Cobb County Green Building Policy":

In addition to existing policy requirements to pursue LEED™ certification and/or guidelines for building construction and renovations, all new building construction that is not LEED™ certified shall be certified under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program whenever possible, subject to the life cycle cost and benefit analyses required by this policy.

FUNDING

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners amend the County's Green Building Policy concerning the construction of County buildings to pursue ENERGY STAR® certification.